THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) What the Home Minister said was: Government's decision was aimed at saving the precious lives of the over 150 passengers and crew aboard the hijacked plane and so was in national interest, even though the decision may caused some damage to the image of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Gujarat Waves Ban on RSS

693. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI S. RAMA CHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Gujarat State Government's recent withdrawal of the ban on its employees joining the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS);

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the Hon'ble President of India has sought clarification from Central Government over the State Government's order; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government .of Gujarat vide their Order dated 3.1.2000 have lifted the ban on their State Government employees from participating in the activities of RSS.

In terms of entry No. 41 under "List II-State List' of the VII Schedule to the Constitution of India, State public Services are within the exclusive purview of the respective State Governments. Further, Article 309 of the Constitution lays down that the Governor of State shall be the competent authority to make rules regulating the conditions of service of persons appointed to posts/services in connection with the affairs of the respective State. Accordingly, it is for the State Governments to formulate their own policies in regard to service matters under their administrative control.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. the Hon'ble President has been appraised of the Government's stand on this issue.